
Teacher Licensure, Praxis Score Scale Changes, Policy

The Background:

For many years Tennessee has required newly licensed teachers to demonstrate subject-area content knowledge by means of a licensure exam. This is done to ensure that teachers have entry-level, minimal competency in the content area and to validate the mastery of licensure standards that were covered within the preparation program. The State Board of Education prescribes which tests are taken in the various subject areas and approves the passing scores for each of the licensure examinations.

Praxis Licensure testing requirements and passing scores are found in State Board Policy number 5.105.

Educational Testing Service (ETS) has undergone a number of test revisions which have resulted in updated versions of these exams with new code numbers and, in some cases, new titles. The new exams under consideration here include:

- 0114 – Music: Content and Instruction (K-12) [Vocal & Instrumental Endorsements]
- 0272 – SPED: Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students (PreK-12)
- 0282 – SPED: Teaching Students With Visual Impairments (PreK-12)
- 0301 – Reading Specialist (PreK-12)
- 0691 – SPED: Early Childhood (PreK-3)
- 0911 – Economics (7-12)
- 0931 – Government/Political Science (7-12)

To support the decision-making process for state departments of education with regards to establishing passing scores, or cut scores, for these Praxis assessments, research staff from Educational Testing Service (ETS) designed and conducted two multi-state standard setting studies for each exam. The studies also collected content-related validity evidence to confirm the importance of the content specifications for entry-level teachers.

The standard setting studies involved two expert panels, comprised of teachers, administrators and college faculty. The recommended cut scores for each panel, as well as the average cut score across the two panels, were provided to help state departments of education determine appropriate cut (or passing) scores.

Due to the number of tests involved with revisions this year, a chart has been attached with the changes in test number, test title, and recommendations for passing scores.

In addition, Educational Testing Service (ETS), the developers of the PRAXIS examinations, is gradually changing the test numbers on some examinations as well

as the score scale on their examinations to have a score range of 100-200 instead of 250-990. These adjusted score scales need to be reflected in the State Board Policy 5.105. At this time one test is being converted from the 250-990 scale to the 100-200 scale:

0600 – Latin will switch scales and become 0601 – Latin

0640 – Theatre will switch scales and become 0641 – Theatre

The test content has not changed, only the scale. The converted passing scores will be provided once the information is available. These changes will be made automatically unless otherwise instructed. No paperwork is required for these changes.

The Master Plan Connection:

This item supports the *Master Plan* by measuring the content knowledge of teachers as one way of gauging their effectiveness.

First to the Top Connection:

This item provides for an assessment of entry level content competence for teachers seeking licensure and/or endorsement in the State of Tennessee. Content competence is a requirement for assuring that students will be instructed by educators capable of maximizing their achievement.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of the minimum passing scores for each test listed here on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

Test Code/Passing Score Changes for 2012-2013

New Test Name & Praxis ID Number	Current Praxis Test ID Number	Curren t Score	Current Pass Rate	Multi- state Task Force Score	SDE Recommenda tion to SBE
0114 – Music: Content & Instruction	0111/0113	145/150	92%/88%	162	157
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0272 – SPED: Hearing	0271	163	93%	160	154
0282 – SPED: Vision	0281	161	86%	163	157
0301 – Reading Specialist	0300	510	89%	164	158
0691 – SPED: Early Childhood	0690	560	78%	159	154
0911 – Economics	0910	530	52%	150	144
0931 – Government/Political Science	0930	600	78%	149	143
Scale Score Changes...					
0601 – Latin	0600	540	82%	n/a	141
0641 – Theatre	0640	610	71%	n/a	159

- Also, Test code number changes for all computer-delivered exams.